

**Lake Ouachita
Citizens Focus Committee**

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

DATE: 10 May 2004

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee (LOCFC) Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 pm, Ouachita Project Management Office, Mike Misch, Acting Chairperson

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Richard D. Stokes, Park Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Titus V. Hardiman, Supervisory Park Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Rick Farmer
Mike Misch
Doug Johnson
Joy Persinger
Howard Wright
Al Gathwright
Jerry Shields
Jerry Williams

Announcements: Reminder of nominations for chair and vice chairman to be made at the June 14, 2004 meeting.

Minutes Review: Minutes accepted as submitted by Titus. Connections regarding statements by Bill Barnes view comments in paragraph 4&3 as noted in minutes submitted at meeting on May 10, 2004.

Aquatic Weed Control Status: Fly facility is being framed and Stokes illustrated by diagram of the facilities construction noting the different materials.

Shields asked why we are using shade cloth on the ponds, Stokes stated that keeping the temperature under control in the ponds will be critical.

Stokes also talked about the importance of the native vegetation pond to grow native vegetation replenish the zones left after the hydrilla has been removed.

Rick Farmer asked about the different species of native plants, Stokes explained the different types.

Shields commended Rick and Johnny on our efforts and noted that Lake Hamilton School will be assisting the Corps with volunteer students and using them to harvest the Hydrilla.

Rick stated that the construction materials have been purchased and it is going well. We will also be purchasing a large flat-bottom boat for harvesting the hydrilla and transporting it to the ponds.

The Milfoil weevils are to be purchased from a sole source provider that is the only one that has the patent on the weevil. That may run cost up but we will stay the path.

Farmer asked if the weevil and P-Fly eat any native vegetation and Rick stated that they are species specific organisms.

Pensing asked about getting more representatives aware of the Aquatic Vegetation Program. Stokes said that he would be supportive of that and other members agreed.

Denby Bay Development Project: Jerry Shields- a meeting is planned for 20 May 2004 with the Hwy Dept. and the Little Rock District (SWL) Regulatory Division. Environmental studies and planning for finalization of what CFC plans on doing with the bridge. The organizations that were invited consist of the AG&F, USFS, Mt. Ida Chamber of Commerce, Mt. Ida Mayor, USACE-SWL, AHTD and Mt. Ida County Judge.

Misch asked what could the committee do as a whole. Stoke said that a letter from CFC with an additional letter for commitment. Directly after that meeting the participants should take a look at the trail. Stokes talked again about the Handshake Initiative Program that will enable the Corps to transfer funds to Montgomery County to use in partnership with the AG&F.

Subcommittees:

Advocacy: Gathwright, Stated that he has 104 contacts in an excel format. Consisting of County, State, Local, Chambers, Federal Gov., Vendors, Marinas, AG&F, etc. He is waiting for further instructions.

Public Relations: Joy Persinger – stated that Austin Gelder, who writes environmental articles for the AR Democrat Gazette would like to do an article on aquatic weed & LOFO's program. She will contact Titus tomorrow.

Jerry Shields asked if the Aquatic Vegetation Program scheduled for the Mt. Ida Chamber was still scheduled for June 15.

Gathwright said that he also had talked with Titus & gotten a program set up in Mena for the local Lion's Club on June 11.

Fisheries & Campground: Rick Farmer passed out information from the Arkansas Black Bass Coalition results: large fish are in decline and the AG&F believes that they may have too many stripers in the lake.

They are proposing a 13" slot limit. Farmer stated that most of the member of the Black Bass Commission feel that the majority of fishermen are fishing for Bass & Crappie and why should the AG&F continue to stock fish that no one is fishing for.

Master Plan & EIS: Jerry Williams – the review of a drafted letter submitted by the committee. Williams stated that we should possibly use information from Greer's Ferry Master Plan to use as a go-by due to that amount of Litigation that it has been scrutinized against.

Shields made motion to accept letter as submitted. Pensinger seconded.

Watershed Quality Maintenance: Mike Misch asked Stokes to present to the committee. Rick outlined how the Corps presents programs to schools on a basic level, and then talked about the different items that we have updated, like fuel storage, marine removal/disposal, pesticides etc and the commercial concessions have been required to update their systems just as the Corps has had to do. The Corps is looking at Natural predators – purple martins and bats. Also, different herbicides on the market, livestock & farms on our leases, jet-skis and houseboats on Lake Ouachita etc. Ouachita has 30+ hog farms that are within our watershed. That is significant.

Misch asked how we could help. Stokes said by notifying the Corps if they know of persons interested in an adult level program and the CFC can participate if they would like.

Comments: Draft farewell letter to Col. Clapp – Is this something that we want to do as a committee? Jerry Shields said that David Doty should draft the letter to Clapp. Unanimous vote to have Doty draft the letter.

Stokes suggested a draft letter welcoming Gen. Crear back to MVD as Division Commander–Misch asked for motion, Shields motion, Gathwright seconded.

Shields suggested since June 14 is the 3rd year anniversary of the committee, he would like to have the next meeting at his home. This would be a light social meeting. Gathwright will cook burgers. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.